

No increase in WCC tuition, fees for in-county students



Washtenaw Community College continues to hold the line on tuition costs, announcing last month a freeze on tuition rates for in-county residents for the 2016-2017 academic year.

The college's Board of Trustees unanimously approved the new tuition rate schedule, which will see only modest increases for out-of-county, out-of state and international students.

"Our goal is always to make sure that tuition at Washtenaw Community College is affordable," said WCC Board of Trustees Chair Richard J. Landau, J.D., Ph.D. "We believe that by keeping rates flat for county residents in the upcoming academic year we are meeting that goal."

William Johnson, WCC's chief financial officer, told trustees that the college's tuition and fee rates continue to be among the lowest among the state's 28 community colleges, consistently ranking in the lower quarter.

Next academic year's tuition freeze follows rates frozen from the prior year for students who enrolled early for last fall's semester.

In addition, there's no increase in tuition for students

A look at the tuition schedule recently approved by the Washtenaw Community College Board of Trustees:

ON CAMPUS	DISTANCE LEARNING
In-district: 0.0 percent	In-district: 0.0 percent
Out-of-district: 2.0 percent	Out-of-district: 2.0 percent
Out-of-state: 3.0 percent	Out-of-state: 3.0 percent
International: 6.0 percent	International: 5.0 percent

who either work in Washtenaw County or own property in the county. They will pay the same \$94 per credit hour.

WCC also will freeze fees for the upcoming year, meaning students will not see a rise in the penalty for delinquent payment, late registration or ID card replacement, among others.

The rate structure, according to Johnson, "reflects the significant support" the college receives from Washtenaw County residents. He added that rates remain flat due to the modest one percent operating budget increase. ●

Washtenaw Community College

ON THE RECORD

ontherecord.wccnet.edu / WashtenawCC @WashtenawCC **May/June 2016**



The 2016 Washtenaw Community College commencement ceremony was a joyous celebration as hundreds of graduates crossed the stage to accept their well-deserved degrees and certificates.

Held on May 21 at the Eastern Michigan University Convocation Center, the ceremony brought together WCC faculty, staff, Board of Trustee members, administrators and friends and family members of the graduates to honor the academic achievements of

the WCC students as the college celebrates its 50th anniversary.

Students heard congratulatory words and inspirational messages from WCC President Dr. Rose B. Bellanca, WCC faculty member Dr. Rosemary A. Rader and WCC student graduate Ashley Davis.

Congresswoman Debbie Dingell was bestowed the WCC Honorary Associate Degree for Community Service.

"The education you received at WCC will

put you on the path for future success," said Dingell. She encouraged the students to engage in their communities, create personal relationships and take the time to give back. (See related story, page 8)

WCC graduate Lanathus Tooson, who received an associate degree in Supply Chain Management, said he was most excited to set an example for his 3-year-old son by pursuing his degree. "I'm excited to show him the right path to success," he said. ●

Heavyweight grant for lightweight study

A \$200,000 grant will help WCC develop curricula around the use of lightweight materials in advanced manufacturing. **PAGE 2**

Running with a purpose

A WCC dean and faculty member commemorated their recent Boston Marathon experience by creating the STRIVE for Success scholarship. **PAGE 4**

State of The Arts

The arts are thriving at WCC. We compiled some students' accomplishments from the past semester on **PAGE 5**

Keeping Up THE GOOD WORK

Ann Arbor SPARK President and CEO Paul Krutko talks about WCC's impact on the local economy. **PAGE 6**

Remember to vote

Tuesday, Aug. 2 is primary election day in Washtenaw County. Voters will be asked to approve a renewal and restoration of a millage, originally passed by voters in 2004, that helps support Washtenaw Community College. Absentee ballots will be available after June 18. You can obtain an absent voter ballot by contacting the clerk of the city or township where you are registered to vote.

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Residential Customer

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Washtenaw Community College

4800 E. Huron River Drive

Ann Arbor, MI 48105-4800

PERMIT #28

Reflecting on the events that shaped WCC over the last 50 years:

BRANCHING OUT

WCC opened its first off-campus extension center in June 1975. It was housed at various locations in Ypsilanti until June 1981. The WCC Brighton Center has operated since September 1985. The Harriet Street Center brought off-site programming back to Ypsilanti in December 2000.

FIRST INTERNET CLASS

WCC's first internet credit course, Automotive Technology, debuted in January 1996. It was developed and taught by instructor Rick Weid. Today WCC offers more than a dozen degree and certificate programs available to students entirely online, as well as a growing catalog of individual online classes.

WCC awarded \$200,000 National Science Foundation grant

Grant will fund curricula, development opportunities in area of lightweight materials

By **SUSAN FERRARO, APR**
Director of Media Relations

Washtenaw Community College has been awarded a \$200,000 National Science Foundation Advanced Technical Education (NSF, ATE) grant designed to instruct students and educators on the most up-to-date information regarding lightweight materials in the automotive design and manufacturing processes.

The grant, titled "Training Tomorrow's Technicians in Lightweight Materials: Properties, Optimization, and Manufacturing Processes," will fund work over a three-year time span starting in July. Terms of the grant also include a collaboration between WCC, Wayne State University in Detroit, a recognized leader in advanced manufacturing research and education; and the Square One Education Network.

Square One is an organization which focuses on educating K-12 students in Michigan, Indiana, Ohio and Illinois in the areas of science, technology, engineering and math (STEM) to prepare

them for the workforce of the future.

Lightweight materials are now broadly used in the automotive industry, both with manufacturers and suppliers in the area of vehicle design and manufacturing, to improve vehicle fuel efficiency and meet increasingly stringent federal Corporate Average Fuel Economy (CAFE) regulations by 2025.

Research has shown there is tremendous job growth in the areas of Advanced Transportation Systems and a corresponding need for trained technicians in the area of advanced manufacturing - which focuses on what a car is made of and how it is built.

"Through our conversations with business leaders in the automotive industry, we understand the imminent needs for employees equipped with skills in the area of lightweight materials," said WCC President Dr. Rose B. Bellanca. "This NSF grant will allow us to create curricula and professional development programs to create a model for other community colleges to follow. We are very proud of this opportunity."

The grant is designed to accomplish the following:

- Develop college curricula and programs and resources to educate students with skills needed for jobs in advanced manufacturing and automotive tech-

nology in the area of lightweight materials.

- Create professional development opportunities through Wayne State University for community college faculty and K-12 teachers centered on lightweight materials.

- Introduce lightweight materials into the Square One Full-Size Innovative Vehicle Design Challenge - an annual event which assembles high school student teams from across the Great Lakes region to compete with cars they design and build in driverless, hybrid, electric and connected radio-controlled categories.

- Contribute lightweight materials curricula to the online library and learning hub for the Lightweight Innovations For Tomorrow (LIFT) library.

- Develop an ongoing supply of technicians skilled in lightweight materials to meet current workforce and industry demands.

- Establish an advisory board composed of Michigan-based companies such as Michigan Aerospace, MICHauto, Michigan Economic Development Corporation, and Ann Arbor SPARK, designed to help WCC develop relevant lightweighting curricula and provide industry insight to WCC faculty.

"This grant affirms both the talent and hard work of faculty here at WCC

and those at Wayne State University," said Brandon Tucker, Dean of Advanced Technology & Public Service Careers at WCC. "The result is a win for our students as they will be exposed to the latest technologies, which in turn prepares them to be competitive as they transition in the workforce."

"We are also looking forward to working with Square One to begin to instill in K-12 students an understanding on how lightweight materials are integrated into the automotive manufacturing environment," Tucker added.

WCC recently announced the establishment of the Advanced Transportation Center that will merge the rapidly growing industries of Automotive Transportation Servicing, Intelligent Transportation Systems and Advanced Manufacturing. Curricula developed from the grant work will be integrated into the courses throughout the center. ●

[This material is based upon work supported by the National Science Foundation under Grant No. 1601261. Any opinions, findings, and conclusions or recommendations expressed in this material are those of the author(s) and do not necessarily reflect the views of the National Science Foundation.]

For more information about the WCC Advanced Transportation Center, visit wccnet.edu/atc.

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Comments and suggestions are welcomed. email editor Susan Ferraro, APR, at snferraro@wccnet.edu.

For more information about WCC, call 734-973-3300 or visit wccnet.edu.

Washtenaw Community College is accredited by The Higher Learning Commission, 230 South LaSalle Street, Suite 7-500, Chicago, Illinois 60604-1411; 800-621-7440; ncaahc.org. Contact 734-973-3300 for information about Washtenaw Community College.

ADA/EEO/Title IX/Section 504 Compliance Statements

Washtenaw Community College does not discriminate on the basis of religion, race, color, national origin, age, sex, height, weight, marital status, disability, veteran status, or any other protected status as provided for and to the extent required by federal and state statutes, nor does the college discriminate on the basis of sexual orientation, gender identity or gender expression. WCC is committed to compliance in all of its activities and services with the requirements of the Title IX of the Educational Amendments of 1972, Public Act 453, Section 504 of the Rehabilitation Act of 1973, Title VII of the Civil Rights Act of 1964 as amended, Public Act 220, and the Americans with Disabilities Act of 1990. Employment compliance inquiries should be directed to the VP of Human Resources, Room 120 in the Business Education building, 734-973-3497. Facility access inquiries should be directed to the VP for Facilities, Grounds and Campus Safety, Room P0112, Plant Operations Building, 734-677-5322. Title IX or ADA/504 inquiries related to programs and services should be directed to the VP for Student and Academic Services, Room SC 247, Student Center Building, 734-973-3536.

Title II Student Right to Know and Campus Security Act Compliance Statement

The Student Right to Know and Campus Security Act of 1990 is a federal law that mandates the disclosure by all institutions of higher education of the rates of graduation, the number of incidents of certain criminal offenses, the type of security provided on campus, the pertinent policies regarding security on campus and policies that record and deal with alcohol and drug abuse. WCC is in full compliance and provides information annually through various means, including college publications, wccnet.edu or email. Inquiries concerning the Student Right to Know and Campus Security Act should be directed to Washtenaw Community College, Office of the Vice President for Student and Academic Services, Room SC 247, Student Center Building, Ann Arbor, MI 48105-4800; 734-973-3536.

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WCC President

COVER PHOTOS

Front page photos from the WCC commencement ceremony held May 21 at the Eastern Michigan University Convocation Center:

1. The mortarboard of a non-traditional student.
2. Congresswoman Debbie Dingell addresses the graduates.
3. Ashley Jones waves to family in the audience.
4. Melvin Dillard (right) is congratulated by WCC President Rose B. Bellanca as Linda Blakey, vice president for student and academic services, looks on.
5. Marc Hawkins waves to family in the audience.
6. Abby Foster holds up her diploma holder as she leaves the arena.
7. A row of graduates watch the ceremony.
8. Shayna Chauncey uses her cell phone camera to make sure her mortarboard is straight.
9. Devin Daily flashes "I love you" in sign language to her family in the audience.
10. Fatimah Almuid smiles as she carries her diploma holder back to her seat.



Campus Calendar

ECONOMIC & COMMUNITY DEVELOPMENT CLASSES

Check out these and other noncredit classes at wccnet.edu/economic-development



SUMMER TECH CAMPS & COLLEGE PREP WORKSHOPS

Get your summer in gear! Registration is open now for tech camps that provide fun, hands-on learning opportunities, and our career and college prep camps that help teens set the foundation for future success. For descriptions of all available camps - open to ages 8-18 - and registration information, visit wccnet.edu/camps.

DIGITAL MARKETING:

Build a Business Facebook Page

6/6 Build a Facebook page for your small business or nonprofit that effectively communicates your products, services and mission. Learn how to use interactive online marketing to convert your connections into customers.

Mondays, June 6-13 6-9 p.m.
Main Campus Cost: \$99

GARDENING

Bee Friendly Gardening

6/7 Explore the world of these hard-working insects including how to attract them to your yard, what they need for food, shelter and nesting and how to garden without using harmful pesticides.

Tuesday, June 7 6-8 p.m.
Main Campus Cost: \$29

BUSINESS SOFTWARE

Microsoft Project 2013

6/13 In this hands-on class, you will build and fine-tune your project plan, schedule tasks and milestones, troubleshoot delays and budget overruns and more.

Mon./Wed., June 13-29 6-8:40 p.m.
Main Campus Cost: \$249

VISUAL ARTS

Vintage Button Necklace

6/14 Design a necklace with vintage buttons and wire to make a wearable state-ment piece.

Tuesday, June 14 6-8:45 p.m.
Main Campus
Cost: \$39 plus \$25 mandatory fee

FOOD AND DRINK

Introduction to Healthy Chinese Cooking

6/16 Discover fun and flavor in cooking by using traditional fast Chinese stir-fry techniques that emphasize vegetables high in vitamins and antioxidants.

Thursday, June 16 6-9 p.m.
Dixboro United Methodist Church
Cost: \$29 plus \$30 mandatory fee

WEB TECHNOLOGIES

Introduction to HTML5 and CSS: Level 1

6/18 Create webpages as you learn about proper syntax, professional coding practices, text and paragraph enhancements, images and more.

Saturdays, June 18-25 9 a.m. - 1 p.m.
Main Campus Cost: \$129

VISUAL ARTS

T-Shirt Scarf

6/21 Transform an ordinary cotton t-shirt into a fabulous accessory that can be worn either as a scarf or a necklace!

Tuesday, June 21 6-8:45 p.m.
Main Campus
Cost: \$39 plus \$25 mandatory fee

DIGITAL MARKETING

Facebook Advertising

6/21 Create attention grabbing ads on the world's most popular social network. Get to know display advertising basics, build your following and measure your return on investment.

Tuesday, June 21 6-9 p.m.
Main Campus Cost: \$45

HISTORY AND CULTURE

Understanding the Great Lakes

6/22 Find out how the Great Lakes were formed, why they go up and down, whether they're healthy and who studies and manages them.

Wednesdays, June 22-July 13 6:30-8:30 p.m.
Main Campus Cost: \$95

CREATIVE WRITING

Writing About Nature

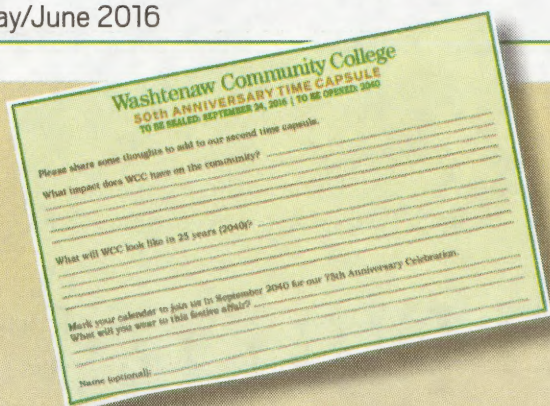
Get inspired from personal writing projects that focus on nature. You'll learn what distinguishes writing about nature from other forms of writing and what resources to tap for research, developing your writing and publishing.

Thursdays, June 23-July 14 6:30-8:30 p.m.
Main Campus Cost: \$95

CAMPUS REMINDER

WCC FOUNDATION SCHOLARSHIP APPLICATION DEADLINE

Each year, the WCC Foundation gives more than \$500,000 in scholarships to over 1,000 students. High school seniors and current WCC students have until Friday, June 10 to apply for fall semester scholarships. The Foundation awards scholarships based on a combination of financial need and merit. Amounts are based on the number of credit hours students plan to take during the semester. For more information, visit wccnet.net/scholarship.



A sampling of responses to a questionnaire (above) passed out to local leaders at WCC's first President's Leadership Appreciation Lunch. The responses will be placed in a time capsule this fall:

WHAT IMPACT DOES WCC HAVE ON THE COMMUNITY?

Raising the bar of education levels for our residents.

Offering great learning experiences at an affordable price.

WCC provides people of all backgrounds and ages a welcoming place in which to grow and blossom with academics and specialized areas of study.

WCC makes getting a quality education affordable—that's so important!

I think it provides hope and options for the citizens of Washtenaw County who would otherwise not have other opportunities to learn.

WCC does not just provide education—it also provides first chances, second chances and eye opening, life changing opportunities.

Tremendous. WCC is far more than just a community learning space—it is a staple for our county.

I love the fact that WCC makes education affordable to everyone in our community.

Enormous! There's no other school educating high school students through retirees.

You bring hope to those who didn't think college was for them.

It is the backbone of economic development. It provides the workforce that supports the community.

WHAT WILL WCC LOOK LIKE IN 25 YEARS (2040)?

The Advanced Transportation Center will probably have a major contribution to the workforce in the areas of automotive technology, including computer technology.

The same but with more sustainable energy sources.

WCC will continue to grow and stay a place where students feel safe and comfortable to express themselves and learn.

Local leaders share WCC thoughts and predictions

By **SUSAN FERRARO, APR**
Director of Media Relations

At the first President's Leadership Appreciation Lunch, held March 31, attendees were put to work.

Washtenaw Community College President Dr. Rose B. Bellanca asked the gathering of Washtenaw County business and community leaders to fill out specially printed cards that would be placed in a time capsule that will be buried this fall, closing out the college's 50th anniversary celebrations.

The lunch itself was part of the 50th anniversary observance. "It is most fitting that we are collectively celebrating our 50th anniversary," said Dr. Bellanca. "For you see, our story is your story. Each of you has helped to shape the essence of this college with your own unique footprint. You have supported us with your time, your talents, your business expertise and your financial support. And for that we are grateful."

On display at the lunch was a time capsule that was buried 25 years ago by then WCC President Gunder Myran and other college officials. Contents of the time capsule were on display for all to see.

The time capsule will be buried again on Free College Day, September 24—to be opened in September 2040.



From left, Congressman Tim Walberg, Congresswoman Debbie Dingell, WCC President Dr. Rose B. Bellanca, WCC Board of Trustees Chair Richard J. Landau, J.D., Ph.D., and State Representative Adam Zemke at the President's Leadership Appreciation Lunch.

Dr. Bellanca asked all in attendance to participate in contributing to the contents of the time capsule. She asked attendees to fill out cards answering three questions:

■ What impact does WCC have on the community?

■ What will WCC look like in 25 years?

■ And then a fun question: What will you wear at the 75th year celebration in 2040?

Each response will be put in the time capsule. They were heartfelt, genuine and provided valuable insight to how WCC is appreciated and respected in the Washtenaw community. ●

Automation everywhere!

The instructors will be robots, there will be an underground monorail and electric cars in the parking lot.

It will have adapted to the times, continuing a tradition of educating its students for the future.

Thriving and relevant.

It will have morphed and changed to reflect shifting industry trends and workforce trends/needs.

Less walls, holographic students and teachers.

Access to education without limits.

WHAT WILL YOU WEAR AT THE 75TH YEAR CELEBRATION?

I'd ride my solar powered bike to the celebration wearing my solar powered, air conditioned suit.

Smart tech fiber clothing that burns calories while I'm eating.

Most likely a green and white shirt with a fur collar and diamonds—while riding... a motorized scooter.

Pajamas because I will be happily retired.

A suit and a tie—but they will light up!

Women helping women

By **PRINCESS GABBARA**
Writer, Public Relations

Inspiring doesn't begin to describe the atmosphere at the 19th annual Women's Council luncheon held at Washtenaw Community College last month.

There was plenty of laughter and gratitude to go around and some tears were shed, but the message was clear: When women help each other, magic happens.

The Women's Council of the WCC Foundation provides students with funds needed to pursue their education, with more than \$485,000 raised over the years for scholarships, grant funding for childcare, books, and emergency needs.

"Receiving a scholarship gave me confidence," said WCC student Shelley Quiroz, who is working toward a nursing degree with plans to transfer to Eastern Michigan University in fall 2018. "It gave me something to fall back on when times were hard. To



PHOTO BY STEVE KUZMA

2016 Women's Council Luncheon honorees (from left) Lakshmi Narayana, current Ann Arbor Thrift Shop board president; Amy Seetoo, president of the American Association of University Women, Ann Arbor Branch; and Marnie Leavitt, executive director of the Women's Center of Southeastern Michigan.

know and see that so many people care about your success is wonderful and I'm incredibly grateful."

The annual luncheon also salutes successful women who lend their leadership to local organizations and make a difference in their communities. This year's honorees were: Marnie Leavitt, executive director of the Women's Center of Southeastern Michigan; Lakshmi Narayana, current Ann Arbor Thrift Shop board president; and Amy Seetoo, president of the American Association of University Women, Ann Arbor Branch.

Dr. Rita Fields, executive vice president at Mosaic Youth Theatre of Detroit

and associate professor of management in the School of Business at Madonna University, served as guest speaker. During her remarks, Fields shared her story of overcoming monumental personal challenges on her long journey to finding joy and success.

"As dark and scary as those moments were, I'm grateful for them because they made me into the woman I am today," Fields said. "As women, we need to be honest about our struggles and stories because when we do that, we can better serve each other." ●

To make a gift, visit wccnet.edu/foundation/give/.

New WCC chief of staff has strong ties to college

By **PRINCESS GABBARA**
Writer, Public Relations

Monique James started her journey at Washtenaw Community College eight years ago as a part-time faculty member who taught non-credit classes. Her role at the college has evolved significantly since then.

Prior to being named Chief of Staff to WCC President Dr. Rose B. Bellanca recently, James was executive director of the Economic and Community Development division. There, she worked to establish connections with Washtenaw County programs, services and resources to help promote the college as a premier provider for post-secondary and continuous education.

James holds a bachelor's degree in journalism and communications from Grand State Valley University and a master's degree in social work from the University of Michigan.

"The skills I acquired from being a social worker allow me to further advocate the great work WCC does, while carrying out the mission and vision of the college," she said. "The full impact WCC has on its students and the community is incredible."

Additionally, James brings a wealth of knowledge and experience in non-profit and community college administration, multicultural programming, and strategic planning.

In her new role as Chief of Staff, James serves as a liaison with workgroups to support the administration and encourage



PHOTO BY JESSICA BIBBEE

Monique James, above, was named Chief of Staff to WCC President Dr. Rose B. Bellanca.

alignment with annual and multi-year initiatives. She also will work to expand and enhance programming efforts to support student recruitment, retention and success.

James has made a name for herself on campus and throughout the community.

Under James' leadership, WCC's Lifelong Learning department—known today as the Economic and Community Development division—received a Special Project Award from the Michigan Association of Continuing Education and Training in 2010.

"I have a lifelong connection to WCC and the community," she said. "I have fond memories of attending special events at the Morris Lawrence building long before working at the college. So, to see it thrive is rewarding. Every day is an experience and I feel like I'm contributing something that will help make WCC a more conducive and inclusive environment for student success." ●



WCC Dean of Arts and Sciences Kristin Good crosses the finish line at the Boston Marathon.

PHOTO BY MARATHONFOTO.COM

"The Boston Marathon is just under four hours, whereas (WCC) students' marathons are stretched out over several years – and the finish line is the moment they walk across the stage with their degrees." – **WCC Dean Kristin Good**

Running with purpose

WCC dean, faculty member create scholarship fund to commemorate participating in Boston Marathon

By **PRINCESS GABBARA**
Writer, Public Relations

For Kristin Good, dean of Arts and Sciences at Washtenaw Community College, and WCC math faculty member Bobby Klemmer, running in the 120th annual Boston Marathon proved to be just as much of a mental test as a physical one.

"It's amazing to see what your body and brain can do together," Good said.

Runners must qualify to participate in the Boston Marathon, with each age group required to complete a specific time the previous year. Both Good and Klemmer achieved these times.

As the marathon approached, they started a process known as "tapering," where one gradually decreases the amount of exercise in the weeks leading up to the big day. Tapering is crucial for runners because the body needs to rest in order to reach its optimal performance.

And it seems to have paid off because Good and Klemmer finished with solid times. Good came in at three hours, 51 minutes and 47 seconds and Klemmer finished in 3:31:37. Both agree that running for something greater than themselves was far more rewarding.

To commemorate their participation in this year's Boston Marathon, Good and Klemmer are raising

money for the STRIVE (strength, trust, resilience, inspiration, vision, and endurance) for Success endowment. STRIVE for Success will help high school students attend WCC. The plan is to raise \$10,000 over the next three years.

"In some ways, our students are running marathons because they're juggling classes, work, internships, extracurricular activities, and families in some cases," said Good, who also serves on the WCC Foundation Board of Directors.

"The Boston Marathon is just under four hours, whereas the students' marathons are stretched out over several years – and the finish line is the moment they walk across the stage with their degrees."

Donations of any value are being accepted and in the upcoming months, there will be updates on the progress of the scholarships via email and social media.

"Many of our students' 'races' are far more grueling and obstacle-filled than any run could ever be," Klemmer said. "I view teaching as a true privilege, and I am convinced that my students have taught me just as much as I have taught them. I am proudly running and creating this endowment to honor them." ●

To support STRIVE for Success, visit wccnet.edu/foundation/give. Enter "STRIVE for Success Award" upon making your gift.



Klemmer



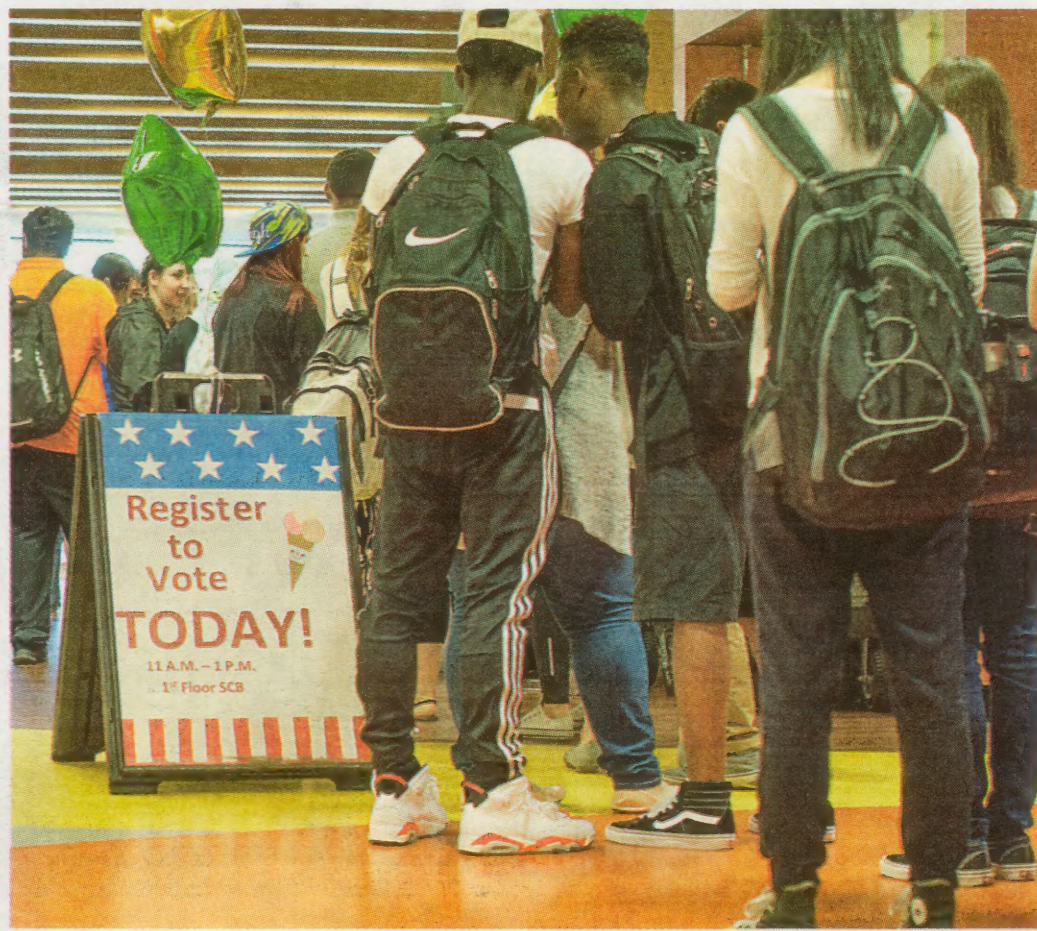
Washtenaw
Community
College

FAST FACTS

PART OF THE COMMUNITY

Washtenaw Community College truly is part of the community. WCC:

- Has a presence in 14 senior centers across the county, offering 38 classes to more than 600 participants.
- Offers classes at Dexter High School.
- Offers classes and programs at two Ypsilanti community centers—Harriet Street Center and Parkridge Community Center.
- Offers business training and advice at its Entrepreneurship Center, which is open to students and the broader community.
- Offers job placement services.
- Operates the Wadhams Veterans Center to assist those who have served our country with counseling and tutoring services and provides them with their own "space" to study, relax and meet other veterans.
- Offers more than 200 Community Education classes per semester, ranging from glass jewelry design to composting to digital marketing.



Sweet combination: Ice cream & voting

The long winter over, more than 500 Washtenaw Community College students, faculty and staff lined up last month for an old-fashioned ice cream social/voter registration event.

In addition to enjoying each other's company and ice cream provided by Fabulous Foods, participants learned more about the upcoming Aug. 2 millage election.

WCC is requesting renewal and restoration of a millage that voters approved in 2004. If Washtenaw County voters approve in August, the millage renewal would raise about \$12.5 million for operating expenses at the college.

Fifty-three people registered to vote – that's one registration for every 2.5 minutes of the event – and many agreed to tell 10 friends about the ballot measure.

To learn more, visit wccnet.edu/millage.

PHOTO BY JESSICA BIBBEE

It's all about inclusion: Students helping students

Members of Washtenaw Community College's Out-Space club – a student organization whose mission is to support WCC students who are lesbian, gay, bisexual, transgender, queer, intersex or asexual (LGBTQIA+) – recently traveled to Jackson College to give a presentation to its recently formed Gay-Straight Alliance called Jet Pride.

During the presentation, WCC students shared highlights from their trip to the 2016 Midwest Bisexual Lesbian Gay Transgender Ally College Conference held at Purdue University.

The meeting provided an opportunity for Out-Space members to develop intercollegiate connections, share what they learned at the conference and advise Jackson College students

on how to develop an active engaged club. Out-Space members also took the opportunity to express appreciation of WCC's efforts to make WCC a more welcoming and inclusive place for LGBTQIA+ students.

"On-campus support systems for LGBTQIA+ students are essential to developing an appreciation and respect for diversity and inclusion in higher education," said Out-Space Officer Alan Ridley. "Moreover, the group provides members with crucial emotional support and a spirit of camaraderie that in many cases, allows our members to flourish both academically and personally." ●

For more information about the Out-Space Club visit: facebook.com/OutSpaceWCC.



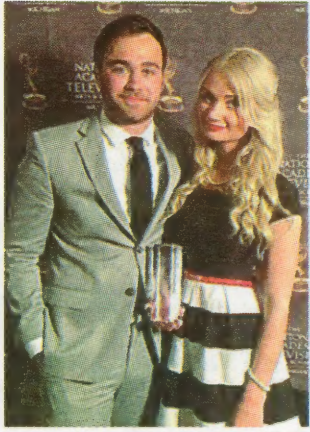
PHOTO BY LYNN MONSON

WCC Dance Team members (from left) Carley Garcia, Ashley Spiegelberg, Allie Myers, Ciara Stasko and Amber Ung.

First-place finish in second year

The Washtenaw Community College Dance Team won first place in the pompon category at the University of Michigan dance competition held recently at the Crisler Center in Ann Arbor. Approximately 30 schools participated in the competition. The team also placed seventh in the Mid-American Pompon competition at Michigan State University.

"The WCC Dance team has come far since its inception just two years ago," said coach Shea Richards, a former dancer for the Detroit Pistons. "They are a true definition of a team, good students and very proud to represent the college at dance competitions. It has been a joy watching them develop friendships, progress with their dance routines and learn the value of working together."



COURTESY PHOTO

WCC students Travis Reynolds (left) and Jessica Brusher with their award.

Shining on the silver screen

Students in WCC's Digital Media Arts (DMA) department can do more than tell a story. They become the story.

Recently, WCC students scored multiple nominations and one win at the annual Michigan Regional Student Production Awards, which is sponsored by the Michigan chapter of the National Academy of Television Arts and Sciences. A distinct honor considering WCC was one of the few community colleges to be nominated.

Nominees were: Dalia Alsadi (Short Form - Nonfiction); Zachary Anderson (Animation/Graphics/Special Effects); John F. Jennings "Red" and Mike McCullough (Music Video); Julie Russell (Short Form - Fiction); Andrea Van Heerde (Short Form - Nonfiction); and Matthew Wilken (Short Form - Nonfiction).

Jessica Brusher and Travis Reynolds won in the Commercial category.

"To have your hard work recognized, even by being nominated, is exhilarating," Brusher said. "This entire experience has been extraordinary and I am incredibly grateful for it all."

At last year's production awards, four WCC students took home first place for Best Documentary, Best Commercial, Best Sports Feature, and Best Director categories.

"The work our students produce speaks for itself," added Matt Zacharias, WCC DMA faculty member. "I'm blessed to work with so many talented students who are passionate about telling great, meaningful stories." ●

The Awards were held at the Detroit Public Television studios in Wixom.

TURNING STEM TO STEAM

No one these days disputes the importance of science, technology, engineering and math (STEM) education. And Washtenaw Community College certainly plays a key role in preparing students for today's and tomorrow's workforce in STEM-related fields. But, there are many who think STEM should have the letter 'A' inserted. The 'A' stands for the arts. It would be an understatement to say the arts at WCC are thriving. Here's a look at what our students accomplished this past semester.

STORIES BY PRINCESS GABBARA | Writer, Public Relations

Art for art's sake and critical review

The Morris Lawrence building at WCC has been transformed into many things over the decades, but every year in April, the building turns into an art gala for one night. Nearly every corner is adorned with the creative work of students in the Digital Media Arts (DMA) department—and this year was no exception.

At the DMA department's annual year-end gala, students in photography, graphic design, 3D animation and digital video took center stage once again as they showcased their portfolios of work culminated from previous semesters.

"Going into the Gala, I had my doubts," said WCC photography student Kaitlin McCormack. Her art project focused on drugs and other addictions.

"The reactions I received gave me the utmost confidence in my abilities as an artist and thinker. But, what I found most satisfying is knowing that a handful of people may have walked away

questioning everything they thought they knew about addiction, and that was the root of my concept."

Open to the public, prospective employers were present to offer constructive feedback, along with advice on how to successfully transition from the classroom into the workplace. Companies included the College of Creative Studies, QLTD, Uproar Communications and Campbell Ewald.

"This is a tremendous opportunity for our students to show the culmination of their studies at WCC and for them to receive feedback from industry professionals," said Ingrid Ankerson, WCC DMA co-chair and faculty member.

"For the community, it's a fun, festive evening of viewing films and enjoying photography and works of graphic design, so it's a win-win for everyone."

Approximately 70 students from WCC's photography, graphic design, 3D animation and digital video programs graduated this year. ●



PHOTO BY JESSICA BIBBEE

WCC graphic design technology graduate Rosie Schrag displays some of her work.

Fine effort for WCC fine arts students

For several of WCC's fine arts students, it was their first time competing in the annual Liberal Arts Networking for Development (LAND) Fine Arts competition in Grand Rapids recently. They left the event happy and proud, carrying off four awards.

WCC submitted 24 student fine art pieces ranging from drawing and painting to 2D and 3D design.

Winners of the Dean's Choice for LAND's Artwork were: Aaron Diels in 3D Design, first place; Tatiana Kondrashova in Painting I, second place; and Michaela Burton in Drawing, third place.

Janice Self from 2D Design took home third place in the 2D Art category at the state level.

"This competition is about our students and getting them to push themselves beyond their comfort zone," said Belinda McGuire, WCC Art faculty member. "This was our first year competing, so it



PHOTO BY STEVE KUZMA

From left, WCC faculty member Jill Jepsen, WCC students Michaela Burton and Janice Self, WCC faculty member Belinda McGuire, and WCC student Tatiana Kondrashova.

was great for the students to see that their work and efforts are appreciated outside the college." ●



HERBERT R. SCHROEDER

Artwork from *Paradigm Shift*, a combined project of WCC's Poetry Club and Out-Space Club.

Poetry shifts the paradigm

Nearly a year in the making, a passion project between two student clubs at WCC came to fruition recently and is receiving a lot of positive attention.

Described by those involved as a "fairly complex project," *Paradigm Shift*, a LGBTQIA+ themed anthology, was coproduced by the WCC Poetry Club and the WCC Out-Space Club, which provides a supportive environment for LGBTQIA+ members at the college.

"The collaboration between the two clubs was a natural fit," said WCC English faculty member Tom Zimmerman, who is also the faculty advisor for the WCC Poetry Club and director at the WCC Writing Center. "We decided on an anthology because there's a lot of ground to cover and we wanted it to be inclusive, while being as representative of as many voices within the LGBTQIA+ community as possible."

Inside, readers will find personal poems and essays, original artwork, resources and a glossary of terms dealing with LGBTQIA+ issues. Out-Space Club member Zach Baker noted that *Paradigm Shift* is not limited to only LGBTQIA+ students, faculty and staff.

"It's for anyone who wants to better educate themselves on a subculture that's often overlooked and misunderstood or someone who wants to become a better ally of the LGBTQIA+ community," Baker said. "The more people know, the more progress we can make as a society." ●

Paradigm Shift is available in a hard-copy and digital version. Contact Tom Zimmerman at tzman@wccnet.edu or 734-973-3703 or visit <http://bit.ly/1RW1hnE>.



PHOTO BY SAMANTHA BRANDT, UNIVERSITY OF MICHIGAN

University of Michigan staff members pose for a photo after a ceremony celebrating their graduation from Washtenaw Community College. The schools worked together to offer the U-M employees an opportunity to earn Commercial Building Maintenance certificates.

WCC, U-M partner to create custom building maintenance program

By JESSICA BIBBEE
Intern, Public Relations

The venue was the University of Michigan, but the graduates and their certificates were from Washtenaw Community College. Twenty-five U-M employees took advantage of a unique opportunity to earn Commercial Building Maintenance (CBM) certificates from WCC.

In a partnership between WCC and U-M Facilities Maintenance representatives, U-M maintenance staff didn't have to leave their own campus to participate in and graduate from the four-semester (12-credit) custom program taught by WCC instructor Zak Purdon.

Designed to better serve the mainte-

nance mechanic's customers, the CBM program provides a structured and accredited pathway for staff to improve necessary skills and meet standard competencies. Over the last six years that the program has been offered, more than 150 U-M staff have enrolled in a course, and 69 have continued on to complete the full certificate.

"I could not have been more proud to hear the accolades that were given to the instructor, Zak Purdon. His talents clearly make this program exceptional," said Kristin Good, dean of Arts and Sciences at WCC.

Dean Good was on site to hand out certificates to the program graduates. "This is an example of a great partnership between WCC and U-M," she said. ●

No 'Shark Tank,' but plenty of competition

Students, community promote business ideas at Pitch@WCC

By **PRINCESS GABBARA**
Writer, Public Relations

The stakes were high at the Entrepreneurship Center's first "Pitch@WCC" competition at Washtenaw Community College.

Though the competition was intense, Dr. Kimberly M. Hurns, dean of Business and Computer Technologies at WCC, injected some humor into the event.

"How many of you have seen 'Shark Tank'?" she asked the audience—a nice mix of WCC and non-WCC folks. "This is not 'Shark Tank.' We want this to be fun and entertaining, as well as a learning experience for our presenters."

"Shark Tank," for those who don't know, is a reality television series on ABC, in which aspiring and existing entrepreneurs pitch their business ideas to a panel of sometimes-brutal investors, a.k.a. "sharks." After listening to the pitches, they then choose whether to make the investment.

And so, after months of practice and preparation, the moment came for eight entrepreneurs to pitch their business ideas to four judges for the chance to win cash prizes that ranged from \$250 to \$1,500.

WCC alum Aaron Richison, who founded Rich Decisions Professional Detailing in Ann Arbor, emceed the event.

There were two categories: Start/Grow, for those still in the idea phase and for those in business for six months or less; and

Grow, for established businesses with several clients.

All pitches were followed by a three-minute Q&A session during which judges challenged presenters to further think about their company's mission and audience, marketing strategy, and the next steps needed to grow their businesses.

"Each pitch was filled with passion, hard work and creativity. I was extremely impressed that every single business concept was on the right path to successfully hit the marketplace or gain market share," said Peter Leshkevich, director of Student Activities and part-time WCC business instructor, who also served as a judge.

"The participants in the competition should be extremely proud of their work and keep moving forward to turn their dreams into reality."

Bernadette McClair, WCC student records transcript and evaluation specialist, was one of the evening's presenters. McClair, who is an identical twin, pitched *Double Take 2 LLC*—an international magazine dedicated to twins and those who've lost a twin—with her sister Antoinette by her side.

"I'd recommend the competition for the process alone," she said. "What's involved before the pitch is just as important. We were required to attend two workshops and meet with the counselors from the (Michigan) Small Business Development



WCC employee Bernadette McClair holds up a mockup of *Double Take 2*, a magazine for twins she plans to publish with her twin sister, Antoinette (right). They were competing for investment money for their business at Pitch@WCC.

Center. Watching the other presenters and seeing the steps they've taken to grow their business was an eye-opener as well."

Winners were: Matt Beadle from Moonlight Games, first place for Start & Build category; Carol Ullmann from Washtenaw Wool Company, runner-up for Start & Build category and Audience Choice Award winner; Karen Driggs from Sleepy Cricket Healthy Vending, first place

for Grow category; and Priya Dass from Nirmal for Disruptive Eating, runner-up for Grow category.

Shortly before the winners were announced, past Entrepreneurship Center clients shared their successes with the audience in a pass-the-mic setting.

Dr. Hurns also announced that another pitch competition is planned for next year and that an Entrepreneur Club is in the

works at WCC.

"Our presenters came through and really shined. They did the homework and it showed, and the judges seemed genuinely interested in their pitches," said Kristin Gapske, director of the Entrepreneurship Center.

"To see the presenters start off with an idea and then boil it down to four or five minutes was very rewarding. We can't wait to do it again next year!"

PHOTO BY JESSICA BIBBEE

Keeping Up THE GOOD WORK



A message from ...
PAUL KRUTKO
President & CEO
Ann Arbor SPARK

Washtenaw Community College offers more than 100 programs for those who want to earn a degree, learn new skills that will propel their careers, and better position them for what employers are seeking. WCC works with organizations like Ann Arbor SPARK to understand the labor market and then proactively address the needs of companies.

One of the most exciting initiatives at WCC is its Advanced Transportation Center, which is focused on educating the workforce on the ever-evolving mobility industry and associated technology. This technology demands that transportation and manufacturing professionals have access to education that keeps their skills current. Those professionals are critical to our future economy: As home to numerous automotive technology centers and the new American Center for Mobility, the Ann Arbor region is poised to lead the global advanced transportation market.

For its attention to making our economy stronger and our region a desirable location for businesses and job seekers alike, we say "Keep up the Good Work!"



Bravo! Faculty and staff honored for positively impacting lives of students

By **PRINCESS GABBARA**
Writer, Public Relations

It was nothing but smiles as Washtenaw Community College faculty and staff recently gathered for the second annual Bravo awards luncheon.

WCC faculty and staff from various areas and disciplines, including English, music and dance, biology, IT, and Financial Services, gathered at the Morris Lawrence building to be recognized for positively impacting the lives of WCC students.

As WCC President Dr. Rose B. Bellanca noted during her remarks, "a Bravo award needs to be earned and the way it is earned is by going above and beyond what is expected. Average isn't good enough."

All Bravo award recipients had to be nominated by students. Several submissions were read aloud during the ceremony, including:

- "He radiates positive energy!"
 - "She never discouraged me because of my age (over 55) and has been tremendous to the core!"
 - "In the midst of a storm of numbers, this instructor stands calm and unflappable, always ready to help each student see the logic behind math!"
- "Students come into Student Activities all the time and they open up about a professor they really love. We want to give them a mechanism that allows them to share those stories in greater detail," said Rachel Barsch, coordinator of WCC Student Activities. "We know teacher evaluations exist, but stories are warmer and more impactful than numbers."

The beauty of the Bravo awards is that WCC staff (Financial Aid, Bookstore, Testing Center, etc.) are recognized as well as faculty. Generally, students meet staff members before ever stepping foot in a classroom, Rachel says, so they often serve as a



PHOTO BY CJ SOUTH

Bravo award winners (from left) Mary Burns-Coral, Gloria Velarde, Tonya McNew, Elizabeth Connors, Kiela Samuels, and Valerie Greaves.

student's first impression of the college.

"It's an honor to receive a Bravo award and to know our efforts touch the lives of others," said Jennifer Nakhleh, WCC Counseling & Career Planning administrative assistant. "Dr. Bellanca and her staff and everyone involved went out of their way to make us feel especially honored and appreciated."

As Dr. Bellanca pointed out, it can be easy to lose sight of the impact we have on others in the day-to-day demands of work and life. The Bravo awards serve as a reminder that hard work and passion rarely go unnoticed.

Before concluding the ceremony, Dr. Bellanca left the honorees with some inspiring words: "The reason you are here is because our students have closely watched as you guide and lead them on their educational journey."



PHOTO BY CJ SOUTH

Bravo award winners (from left) Bob Lowing, Gary Schultz, Glenn Kay, and Amanda Scheffler.



PHOTO BY CJ SOUTH

Bravo award winners (from left) Sarah Roland, Hunter Thompson-Lockwood, Beth Kennedy, and Kyle Yaeger.

THE WCC FOUNDATION

Celebrating 30 Years!

Navy veteran gives back

Scholarship supports her dreams of becoming a social worker

During her service in the U.S. Navy, Caylee Collins flew in a communications squadron, communicating with underwater submarines, where she was exposed to many of the newest technology the Navy had to offer, including satellite communication and fiber optics technology. After her military service, she worked around the country designing the fiber optics systems in cables and telephones that much of today's communication depends on.

Now that her children are older, she is pursuing her dream of becoming a social worker.

"I decided I wanted to stop working only for money," Caylee said, "so I went back to school for a helping profession so I could improve the lives of others."



Caylee will graduate May 2016 from Washtenaw Community College with an Associate Degree in Human Services. After that, she has aspirations of starting classes at Eastern Michigan University. Thanks to WCC's transfer agreement with EMU, she'll only need three semesters there to finish her bachelor's degree.

Caylee volunteers at Dawn Farm and Home of New

Vision where she helps those with mental and physical disabilities, those struggling with substance abuse, and individuals with Post-Traumatic Stress Disorder (PTSD).

As a survivor of a violent crime and one who has experienced PTSD, she believes it's important to help others in need. "You can see someone grow, help them come out of a hole and become better," she said.

It's meaningful work that she wouldn't have been able to do without the support of her

Upcoming grads, Join the new



Benefits include:

- Registration discount and a seven-day free guest pass at the WCC Health and Fitness Center
- Lifetime access to the WCC library
- Access to WCC job fairs and career services assistance
- Birthday discounts
- And more

Join today!

wccnet.edu/alumni

scholarships from the WCC Foundation. "The scholarships I received helped pay for tuition, books and daily living expenses each semester," Caylee said. "I'm so blessed with the support I've gotten. I am very thankful."

Support a student's journey to success

Generous donors to the WCC Foundation know they're doing more than helping students afford books and tuition—they're also helping them on their journey to success. Their support has an enormous positive impact on students' lives, which in turn has a positive impact on their families and communities.

Every year, the WCC Foundation removes financial barriers to an education for thousands of students. Read the heartfelt thoughts from a couple of them.



and throughout my career. When I succeed, I will look to give to others like you've given to me."

Davon Shackelford



not the three that it has. Part of the reason I do so well in my classes is because the donors are helping me. I try to do really well for them."

Sunshine Croft

**Please consider helping a student today by making a gift to the
WCC Foundation wccnet.edu/foundation/give**

23rd Annual WCC Foundation Jerry Jernigan Memorial

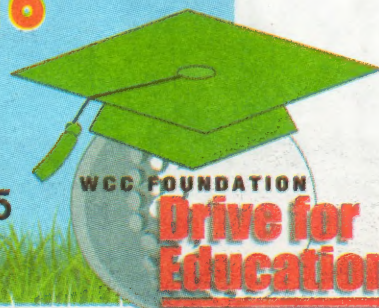
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STUDENT COMMENCEMENT SPEAKER: ASHLEY DAVIS

WCC graduate wouldn't let adversity stand in her way

By PRINCESS GABBARA
Writer, Public Relations

Tired of struggling and living paycheck to paycheck, recent Washtenaw Community College graduate Ashley Davis knew she wanted more out of life, so she registered for classes at Wayne State University in 2007.

But a month into the semester, Davis discovered she was pregnant and dropped out, afraid of juggling morning sickness and midterms. She would soon face another setback in her educational journey.

"... I started to realize how without WCC, my road to success would have been so much more difficult."

- Ashley Davis

that I couldn't keep running away from my calling."

So, for the first time in years, the aspiring art teacher accepted a nanny position and enrolled at WCC. And because life often works in wondrous ways, Davis and her husband learned they were expecting three days before the semester started. That was in 2014.

Fast forward to June 2016 and the Hazel Park native is getting ready for her first semester at the University of Michigan, where she received a full scholarship and will pursue a bachelor's degree in elementary education.

"I'm sad to be leaving, but I know WCC has provided me with the toolkit I need to succeed in whatever I choose to do next," Davis said. "If it wasn't for the flexibility of online classes and all the guidance and support I received, there's no way I would've made it."

It's why Davis chose to deliver the com-

One week after welcoming a son named Miles, the child died.

In her application to be considered for commencement speaker, Davis wrote: "The pain of losing him put me off from finishing my degree. I wasn't sure I'd ever be able to work with children again. As the years went on, and the pain slowly subsided, I realized



PHOTO BY LYNN MONSON

WCC graduate Ashley Davis.

mencement speech at WCC, addressing an enthusiastic crowd.

Interestingly enough, Davis almost didn't participate in graduation.

"I didn't think it was a big deal because I'm working toward my bachelor's, but my friends said to me, 'Are you crazy? You worked so hard for two years. Why wouldn't you want an associate degree to reflect that?'" Davis explained. "Then, I started to realize how without WCC, my road to success would have been so much more difficult."

From here, Davis transfers to U-M in the fall, but she'll never forget her WCC roots.

Her two-year-old daughter, Dorothy, continues to be a positive, motivating force as she pushes forward and embarks on the next part of her educational journey.

"Many WCC students are somewhere in the middle and the college acts as a stepping stone, but that doesn't make our experiences any less important," Davis said.

"Some of us are ready to go out there and enter the workforce, while others still have some ways to go. It's part of what makes WCC so unique and special and that deserves to be celebrated." ●



PHOTO BY LYNN MONSON

WCC Board of Trustees chairman Richard Landau, J.D., Ph.D. (left) and WCC President Dr. Rose B. Bellanca (right) present Congresswoman Debbie Dingell with her honorary degree.

Congresswoman Dingell: A true friend of the college

By SUSAN FERRARO, APR
Director of Media Relations

The Washtenaw Community College Honorary Associate Degree in Community Service is designed to recognize individuals who support WCC and its students in an extraordinary fashion. It also recognizes a life of service that has benefited the entire community.

For those reasons, and many others, the college's Board of Trustees honored Congresswoman Deborah "Debbie" Dingell with the special degree at the 2016 commencement ceremony.

Dingell was elected to Michigan's 12th District in the U.S. House of Representatives in 2014.

"Congresswoman Dingell has been a friend of our college for many, many years," said WCC board chair Richard J. Landau, J.D., Ph.D. "She is a familiar face here on campus and often takes time out of her busy schedule to attend our events - always making time to interact with our faculty, staff and most importantly, our students."

Over her long career, Dingell's civic and community work encompasses a breadth of passions, which always focus on humanitarian issues. She is a founder and

"We are grateful for (Dingell's) seemingly endless support for Washtenaw Community College and the ongoing success of our students."

- WCC Board of Trustees chair
Richard J. Landau, J.D., Ph.D.

past chair of the National Women's Health Resource Center and the Children's Inn at the National Institutes of Health.

Dingell's acceptance remarks encouraged the graduates to become engaged in community activities early on in their lives. She also asked the graduates to remember the value and importance of interpersonal interaction.

"Listen to each other," said Dingell. "It's the little things you will do that speak the loudest in the big picture."

She concluded her remarks by reminding the students that wherever they end up, they should always have the desire to make a difference in the world and make it a better place for future generations. ●

From left, EMU regents Mike Hawks, Dennis Beagen and Michelle Crumm; WCC President Dr. Rose B. Bellanca, EMU Interim President Donald Lopnow, WCC Trustee Vice Chair Diana McKnight-Morton, EMU regents Beth Fitzsimmons, Mary Treder Lang, James Stapleton and James Webb.



PHOTO BY LYNN MONSON

Eastern Michigan wishes 'Happy 50th' to its neighbor

Washtenaw Community College President Dr. Rose B. Bellanca and Vice Chair of the WCC Board of Trustees Diana McKnight-Morton attended the April meeting of the Eastern Michigan University Board of Regents to accept a resolution of recognition from the EMU Regents in celebration of WCC's 50th anniversary.

The Regents offered the resolution of recognition noting WCC's extensive community contributions, as well as the college's

longstanding collaboration with Eastern Michigan.

The resolution read in part, "The Eastern Michigan University Board of Regents hereby congratulates Washtenaw Community College as they celebrate their 50th Anniversary, and commends President Rose Bellanca and the WCC Board of Trustees for outstanding educational leadership, and sincerely thanks them for their dedication and commitment to our community." ●

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